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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, prepared in compliance with General Assembly resolution 56/106 of 14 December 2001, reviews the prevailing conditions in Somalia, taking into consideration the assistance provided by the United Nations and its partners. It draws attention to progress made over the past year and priority areas of assistance according to likely developments.

The report outlines key developments in Somalia that have directly affected the well-being of the Somali people and United Nations operations in the country. Recent and ongoing fighting between rival factions in the southern and north-eastern parts of the country, in addition to continuing volatility in Mogadishu, are mentioned as particularly significant.

The report also outlines the impact of the continuing ban on livestock exports to certain Gulf States and the closure of remittance banks.

In terms of progress made, key interventions undertaken to alleviate the effects of conflict, poverty, food insecurity and related displacement are highlighted. Progress in a number of sectors, such as health, education, water and sanitation, is described. Focus is placed on the difficult security environment in which United Nations agencies operate, the insecurity that United Nations workers face and the direct impact of security-related programme disruptions on beneficiaries throughout Somalia. Somali leaders are called upon to ensure the safety of humanitarian workers.

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The report concludes that although significant progress has been made during the reporting period, a deteriorating security situation and a lack of funding continue seriously to hamper humanitarian, recovery and development programmes in Somalia, leading to increased vulnerability among the Somali people. It is recommended that Member States support programmes through the Consolidated Appeals Process and Trust Fund for Peace-Building in Somalia in efforts aimed at assisting Somali communities to rebuild, reconcile their differences and build peace.

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted in compliance with General Assembly resolution 56/106 of 14 December 2001, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures for the implementation of that resolution and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session. The report reviews the current and prevailing conditions in Somalia in relation to humanitarian relief and economic and social rehabilitation, taking into consideration the assistance provided by the United Nations and its partners. It also draws attention to progress made over the past year and focuses on priority areas for assistance according to expected developments.

II. Socio-economic situation

A. Political and security situation

2. A number of important developments directly affecting socio-economic conditions in Somalia occurred during the reporting period. Somalia became the focus of international attention following the events of 11 September 2001 in the United States of America. The assets of a Somali organization, Al-Itihaad al-Islamiya, were blocked by a United States Presidential Order because of the group's alleged links to terrorism. Other Somali individuals and groups were later added to the list, including the Al-Barakaat Group of companies, one of Somalia's biggest remittance and telecommunication businesses.

3. In further efforts to promote peace and reconciliation in Somalia, the ninth Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Summit, held in Khartoum in January 2002, mandated the frontline States (Kenya, Djibouti and Ethiopia) and the IGAD secretariat to hold a national reconciliation conference for Somalia in Nairobi, with Kenya acting as the co-coordinator. President Moi of Kenya had earlier convened two Somali reconciliation meetings in Nairobi in November and December 2001. Preparations for the national reconciliation conference for Somalia have since run into obstacles and the conference was postponed. Nevertheless, diplomatic efforts are ongoing to enable it to take place at a later date.

4. Meanwhile, the country has undergone political turmoil and insecurity, including in relatively stable areas of the north-west and north-east. Local elections in "Somaliland", which were expected to launch the transition to a multi-party system, were postponed indefinitely in December 2001. On 3 May 2002, "President" Mohamed Ibrahim Egal died after surgery at a hospital in South Africa. He was immediately succeeded by "Vice-President" Dahir Riyale Kahin in what was accepted as a constitutional transfer of leadership. Subsequently, Ahmed Yusuf Yassin was sworn in as "Vice-President" on 16 May 2002. Relative stability in the region has allowed United Nations operations to continue largely uninterrupted during the reporting period.

5. In "Puntland", the controversy surrounding Colonel Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed seeking an extension of his term in office as "President" in mid-2001 led to a serious constitutional crisis. Two claimants to the leadership emerged — Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed and Jama Ali Jama; the latter was elected "President" after an elders' conference in August 2001. The ensuing stalemate ended in May 2002 when Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed entered Bossaso accompanied by a militia force, forcing Jama Ali Jama to leave the country. Following an evacuation of international staff from areas affected by the fighting, the United Nations is yet to resume its programmes in the region fully.

6. In southern Somalia, the Transitional National Government (TNG) suffered a motion of no confidence in the Transitional National Assembly on 28 October 2001. Hassan Abshir Farah was later named as the new Prime Minister. In an effort aimed at local reconciliation with opposition groups, President Abdikassim Salad Hassan visited districts in Lower Shabelle in November 2001 and in Galgadud and Hiran in March 2002. On 1 April 2002, the Chairman of the Rahanwein Resistance Army (RRA), Hassan Mohamed Nur "Shatigudud" was nominated "president" of a newly formed regional administration, the "Southwestern Regional State of Somalia".

7. An inter-agency United Nations security assessment in January 2002 confirmed that Somalia remained one of the most dangerous environments in which the United Nations operates. In particular, the report confirmed that conditions in Mogadishu did not allow for a permanent United Nations presence. The security situation has since continued to be volatile, with the main airports and seaports remaining closed.

Intense fighting began in February 2002 around the Medina district of Mogadishu between militia loyal to TNG and the Somalia Reconciliation and Restoration Council (SRRC).

8. There have been several attacks against expatriate and national staff of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in Mogadishu and Lower Shabelle during this period. In February 2002, a Swiss aid worker was murdered by gunmen in Merka, south-west of Mogadishu. In the same month, the head of the UNICEF office in Mogadishu was kidnapped, but later released. Moreover, on 28 April 2002, a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) national officer working in Mogadishu was abducted by gunmen and held until 25 May 2002, leading to the suspension of all United Nations activities in the city from 7 to 25 May 2002. United Nations activities are yet to resume fully in Mogadishu.

9. The region of Gedo has also seen intense fighting in recent months. In February 2002, fighting broke out between SRRC and Juba Valley Alliance (JVA) militias. Intra-clan conflict among the Marehan then escalated in north Gedo in mid-May 2002. The fighting led to significant casualties and resulted in displacement, both within Somalia and to neighbouring countries. The situation in the area remains tense, preventing refugees from returning.

B. Humanitarian issues

10. This reporting period has seen a worsening of humanitarian conditions in many parts of Somalia. The combined impact of drought, conflict and resulting displacement continues to exacerbate already difficult conditions for the most vulnerable. It is now estimated that more than 700,000 Somalis are directly affected by the emergency.

11. In terms of food production, the 2001 *gu* rainy season in southern Somalia saw a reduced crop, totalling 115,000 metric tonnes of sorghum and maize. However, Somalia benefited from an above average total cereal production of 140,000 metric tonnes during the 2001 *deyr* harvest. The combined *gu* and *deyr* cereal production in southern Somalia for 2001 was estimated at 255,000 metric tonnes. The 2002 *gu* season got off to a good start in April and appears promising in the Bay, Bakool and Gedo regions.

12. In addition to cereals, livestock play a major role for overall food security in Somalia through the consumption and sale of milk, meat and other products. Without this vital source of income, many families are unable to purchase the necessary staple foods. As such, the disruption of local markets and trade, as a result of conflict and insecurity, has had a profound negative impact on vulnerable groups. Regarding the quality of pasture, a crucial factor for those dependent on livestock, there has been a slight improvement in the Bari region and parts of the Sool and Sanag regions. However, the Awdal region is still badly affected by poor pastures, resulting in lower livestock conception rates and the reduced availability of milk.

13. In the health sector, endemic diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, diarrhoea, acute respiratory infection, emerging diseases, such as leishmaniasis, and cyclic outbreaks of cholera, measles and meningitis continue to threaten the lives of Somalis despite a swift response to reported outbreaks by United Nations agencies and NGOs.

14. Overwhelmingly, insecurity remains the most significant obstacle to the provision of humanitarian assistance to the groups most in need, including internally displaced persons, returnees, economic migrants, urban poor and minority groups. This is particularly evident in the Gedo region, where more than 150,000 people have been cut off from humanitarian assistance since April 2002. Most important, humanitarian aid workers have been unable to carry out crucial food distributions for more than two months. The conflict in Gedo has also seen the movement of an estimated 10,000 Somali refugees — 3,500 of whom have been registered — into Mandera, in neighbouring Kenya, and a further 3,000 to 5,000 to Dollow, in Ethiopia. It is estimated that approximately 300,000 to 350,000 persons are now internally displaced in Somalia.

15. Following a suspension of United Nations activities in Mogadishu in May 2002, an estimated 1 million inhabitants of the city were denied access to critical assistance, particularly in the health, water and sanitation sectors. The disruption of National Immunization Days, scheduled to take place in May 2002 as part of the campaign to eradicate polio, was of particular concern. Continued fighting in Mogadishu has rendered it too insecure to carry out full humanitarian and development activities there since May 2002.

16. The suspension of international aid activities in the north-east on 6 May 2002, linked to the change of leadership in "Puntland" and related fighting, has meant that major humanitarian and development projects, ranging from water and sanitation projects to the rehabilitation of the port of Bossaso, have effectively stalled. However, national staff continue to undertake limited activities under difficult conditions.

C. Economic issues

17. The lack of institutional capacity to collect and compile statistics means that very limited reliable statistical data is currently available for Somalia. However, the Somalia Watching Brief programme, implemented by UNDP and supported under the Post-Conflict Fund of the World Bank, collaborates with TNG, regional administrations and other development partners to review and prioritize data needs and to collect and compile socio-economic information. It is expected that this initiative will help to compile a set of development indicators to monitor socio-economic conditions and assess the impact of international development efforts in Somalia.

18. Widespread basic vulnerability in Somalia is largely attributed to the country's restricted natural resource base, the limitations of agricultural and livestock production methods used and the impact of past economic practices. Climatic changes, irregular rainfall as well as frequent droughts contribute further to creating vulnerability. Man-made factors, such as the continued ban on Somali livestock imports by some Gulf States and the closure of one of the leading Somali remittance companies in November 2001, have also played a significant role.

19. Moreover, conflict and asset stripping have crippled household economies and forced hundreds of thousands of Somalis to flee from their homes. It should be noted that poor urban residents and farmers have been the worst affected, as their assets are less mobile than those of pastoralists. The loss of assets, including land, has resulted in overwhelming destitution for previously self-sustaining households. Most of the assets are yet to be restored due to the absence of any large-scale programmes for rehabilitation and reconstruction.

20. Although the private sector continues to expand, it is largely constrained by a general lack of national institutional capacity to support and sustain growth. Weak banking and financial services, regulatory frameworks and quality control have seriously limited access to international markets and the capacity to benefit from ongoing globalization and economic integration.

21. In this context, intraclan, intracommunity and intrafamily assistance and resource redistribution have been vital in mitigating the worst effects of recurrent stress and crises. Remittances have constituted a major source of foreign exchange earnings during the last 10 years, significantly augmenting the economy in Somalia. As mentioned, the closure of Al-Barakaat, a leading money transfer company, after the 11 September tragedy and the growing difficulties faced by other companies engaged in international money transfer operations have therefore had a major impact on coping mechanisms in Somalia.

III. United Nations assistance in Somalia

22. United Nations agencies work in tandem with over 60 international NGOs, which, together with donors, comprise the Somalia Aid Coordination Body. The United Nations agencies continue to implement a previously adopted four-part humanitarian and development strategy to increase access to essential social services and to build an enabling environment for peace and reconciliation. This strategy encompasses how the United Nations will (i) secure access to vulnerable populations; (ii) establish a secure and safe operating environment; (iii) provide assistance and protection; and (iv) improve coordination, security and support services.

23. As mentioned, the security of humanitarian staff remains a key concern. It is difficult to predict security conditions, as they vary fundamentally from region to region. Insecurity and conflict often make it impossible for staff to access vulnerable populations and there are direct threats to the safety of those on the ground.

24. In spite of the difficult and often hostile environment faced by the United Nations and partner NGOs, significant progress has been made with regard to achieving the objectives outlined in the 2002 Inter-Agency Consolidated Appeal for the delivery of assistance.

A. Food security and rural development

25. The World Food Programme (WFP) estimates serious food vulnerability for up to 700,000 people in some areas of Somalia. The WFP strategy aims to sustain lives as well as support and maintain livelihoods. This strategy has enabled WFP to contribute to a broader framework for integrated rehabilitation programmes, while maintaining its flexibility to respond to development opportunities and emergency situations alike. In November 2001, WFP initiated an ongoing major relief food distribution in the severely affected districts of Garbaharrey and Burdhuubo in the Gedo region.

26. During this reporting period, WFP has distributed a total of 14,400 tonnes of food commodities to an estimated 1.2 million beneficiaries. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided additional specialized supplementary and therapeutic feeding supplies to malnourished children through implementing partners in 12 Mother and Child Health Centres, 2 hospitals and 2 therapeutic feeding centres in the Bay, Bakool, Gedo and Banadir regions.

27. The Food Security Assessment Unit (FSAU) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) continues to collect and analyse information required to understand the food security situation and, through ongoing monitoring, is able to provide early warning of emergencies.

28. FAO and UNDP have collaborated to support the livestock trade through a mission to the United Arab Emirates to determine its regulations for the import of chilled meat. Training courses for slaughterhouse staff have been held in Zimbabwe.

29. Relating to rural development, UNICEF, WFP and FAO are leading the initiatives while collaborating with other United Nations agencies and NGOs. Activities include water provision and rehabilitation of wells, as well as water catchment areas. In the north-east, UNICEF has worked very closely with the water administration of "Puntland" on coordination, planning and management of water system structures. In the north-west, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) trained 12 village committees to enable them to establish sustainable water management systems with the full involvement of women. In central and southern Somalia, UNICEF and WFP placed more emphasis on rehabilitation of village or rural water supplies and mini-water systems. During the reporting period, UNICEF rehabilitated over 20 mini-water systems and approximately 120 hand-dug wells, providing potable water to over 100,000 people.

B. Health and nutrition

30. The World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, in conjunction with other implementing partners, were engaged in efforts to reduce the transmission of disease. WHO and UNICEF responded to reports and outbreaks of cholera by sending out response teams and providing necessary medical supplies to the Cholera Treatment Centres.

31. WHO, UNICEF and other implementing partners successfully immunized 190,000 persons out of a targeted population of 220,000 following a meningitis outbreak detected in Hargeisa in October 2001. WHO continues to ensure surveillance and supports case management at Hargeisa Hospital. It also provides laboratory support in the form of laboratory kits to the concerned health facilities.

32. WHO and UNICEF established programmes that seek to control priority communicable diseases (malaria, tuberculosis, diarrhoea and acute respiratory infection). These programmes have particularly focused on the strengthening of health services. UNICEF provided basic drugs and essential medical equipment to approximately 400 health facilities, including hospitals, Mother and Child Health Centres and health posts.

33. WHO and UNICEF have embarked on a project to introduce syndromic management of sexually transmitted diseases. Thirteen sites have been identified and supplied with, inter alia, drugs, manuals, diagnostic flow charts, reporting forms and tally sheets. Blood safety is being ensured in the hospitals by the provision of medical kits.

34. In 2001, WHO carried out training on syndromic management for health professionals in health facilities in Garoowe, Baidoa and Mogadishu. UNICEF carried out similar training in Hargeisa. Further training on HIV/AIDS clinical management for health professionals was carried out in Hargeisa, Baidoa and Mogadishu. Despite the relatively low prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Somalia, UNICEF and WHO have given

priority to raising HIV/AIDS awareness, especially among the youth.

35. WHO has enhanced its capacity, including health manpower development, through the following activities: strengthening of its laboratory capacities in the areas of tuberculosis, malaria and meningitis investigation; blood safety and cholera control; and emergency response to disease outbreaks.

36. WHO and UNICEF had initially planned four rounds of Polio/AFP (acute flaccid paralysis) National Immunization Days for 2001, targeting 1.3 million children. Conflict and insecurity have interfered with this campaign. Nevertheless two supplemental immunization days and three national immunization days took place in 2001. In 2002, three supplemental immunization days have been conducted to date. Approximately 1.2 million children have been vaccinated during each national round.

37. Regarding reproductive health, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has been active, working in close collaboration with CARE to complete a reproductive health baseline survey in Garoowe and the surrounding areas of Puntland. UNFPA has carried out training for 31 traditional birth attendants from villages in Garoowe on antenatal care and essential obstetric care. Twenty-one midwives in Garoowe were trained in both essential and emergency obstetric care. In 2002, UNFPA also provided family planning supplies to the Ministry of Health and Labour in Somaliland. UNICEF supplied clean delivery kits to traditional birth attendants and health facilities throughout Somalia that provide antenatal care.

38. UNICEF continues to be active in the eradication of female genital mutilation. It has collaborated with Al Azhar University in Egypt as well as Somalia local authorities to train trainers from different regional working groups on female genital mutilation in Somalia. These working groups raised awareness at the regional, district and village levels; reaching out to share experiences, exchange best practices and mobilize families and communities on the total eradication of female genital mutilation. UNICEF is also involved in the simultaneous development of two different curricula to raise awareness about this issue. UNHCR has successfully supported a programme against female genital mutilation in Boroma, in the Awdal region.

39. Regarding targeted nutrition programmes, the Food Security Assessment Unit of FAO continues to conduct annual harvest and food aid need assessments and to monitor food insecurity. FSAU also supports nutrition surveillance through partners in the health sector.

40. In southern Somalia, malnutrition rates continue to be among the highest in the Horn of Africa. Although there has been deterioration in the status of northern populations, the situation there is significantly better than in the south. FAO is engaged in a new initiative that seeks to improve the nutritional status of the most vulnerable groups in the Gedo, Bay and Bakool regions through support to community-based food security initiatives and increased coordination between interventions in the health and food security sectors.

41. WFP has continued to support school-feeding programmes in stable areas. UNICEF continues to provide supplies to Supplementary and Therapeutic Feeding Centres and Mother and Child Health Centres. There is fruitful collaboration between these agencies, other United Nations agencies and NGOs, such as the Gedo Health Consortium and Action contre la faim. More than 32,400 malnourished children have received UNICEF health and nutrition packages and family rations provided by WFP.

C. Water and sanitation

42. UNICEF continues to take the lead role in programmes to strengthen sanitation and hygiene in schools. Sanitation tools were distributed to assist internally displaced persons' communities in cleaning up their environment. UNICEF provided chlorine and water purification training as part of efforts to ensure cholera prevention and control within the country.

43. Some 200 drums of chlorine, 600,000 sachets of oral rehydration salts and 20 cholera kits were pre-positioned by UNICEF for use during the cholera season. WHO also provided water-testing equipment to hospital laboratories in Mogadishu, Bossaso, Hargeisa and Las Anod in order to improve the quality of water consumed and reduce water-borne diseases.

44. WHO currently gives backing to 66 Basic Development Needs villages in Somalia through the provision of regular support in the form of water,

livestock, veterinary, small-scale trading and skilled professionals.

D. Education

45. While both the number of operational schools and the number of enrolled students have increased by over 30 per cent since 1997/1998, the overall national percentage of enrolled primary school children is 13.6 per cent. Gender-related disparities remain an area of major concern.

46. Under Primary Formal Education programmes, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UNICEF continue to collaborate on projects that boost formal and non-formal education in Somalia. Both agencies continue to lead the process to reform the new Somali primary school curriculum. A new syllabus and new textbooks are being developed, with material for all six subject areas for grades 1 to 4 having been finalized by UNICEF and printed by UNESCO. For the very first time in over two decades, Somali children will benefit from qualitative contemporary textbooks.

47. UNICEF has provided in-service training to 5,000 teachers in the methodologies and pedagogical aspects of the new textbooks. Fifty-six titles are being prepared by UNESCO for upper primary school, along with syllabuses, teacher guides and supplementary readers. Somaliland Teacher Education College was started with assistance from UNESCO with an intake of 250 first-year students.

48. The introduction of an Education Management Information System by UNICEF is well under way, with the system firmly grounded in primary schools across Somalia and starting to provide regular and reliable data.

49. There continues to be a focus on primary education through alternate channels. UNICEF completed a study on nomadic populations, which is being used to find ways to provide quality primary education to nomadic children. Non-formal education modules, including curriculums, syllabi, learner modules and teachers' guides for numeracy, literacy, science, social studies and life skills (including sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, female genital mutilation and other critical areas), were finalized in 2001 by UNICEF.

50. UNICEF supported the establishment of 100 community-based education and development youth groups, and 15 playgrounds were rehabilitated and equipped for their use. UNESCO support has included capacity-building of sports authorities; integration of sporting activities in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants through the Sports for Peace Project, which primarily plans sports activities in the larger demobilization exercise in Somalia. Community empowerment and syllabus development took place through technical vocational skills training that was conducted for over 100 out-of-school youth trainees for the acquisition of employable skills and empowerment of the communities.

51. UNESCO conducted enterprise-based training for the demobilization of 450 militia between the ages of 15 and 35. Both literate and illiterate trainees were trained in 11 trades. Through the civic and peace education programmes, UNESCO has produced and dispatched 60 radio episodes, aired by all partner radio stations in Somalia. These programmes are part of the ongoing efforts to build capacities for the sustainable promotion of local peace and development.

E. Human rights and gender

52. In compliance with General Assembly resolution 54/136 of 17 December 1999, in which the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM) was requested to strengthen the capacities of women in situations of armed conflict and to promote the integration of a gender perspective into all peace-building activities, UNIFEM has made achievements in the following areas in Somalia.

53. Regarding demobilization and reintegration, UNIFEM has developed a gender-desegregated database on former militia and their dependants. From December 2001 through February 2002, UNIFEM and NGO partners assessed the psychological burden of female caretakers of ex-combatants. Further to these studies, UNIFEM has commissioned an independent experts' mission to carry out a global gender assessment of the impact of armed conflict on women and women's role in peace-building. UNIFEM received substantial support from UNHCR, UNICEF, the United Nations Political Office for Somalia, WFP and other partners.

54. Gender and women's issues are an important aspect of the reintegration activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. As such, UNHCR continues to consult with and support grass-roots women's groups in order to foster the involvement of women in peace-building and reconciliation. In 2001, UNHCR committed to support the Galkacyo Education Centre for Peace and development in "Puntland" in order to enhance the role of women in peace-building.

55. In "Somaliland", furniture and income-generation supplies were provided by UNHCR to four Family Life Education Centres for women's groups that were provided with productive skills through non-formal education to enhance their living standards and self-reliance.

56. UNIFEM has been requested by women's organizations to provide technical support to the Somalia Women's Campaign on Disarmament in the southern and central regions. In its brokering role, UNIFEM has connected women's peace advocates with mainstream United Nations agencies and other organizations. UNICEF and UNHCR have also been very active in fostering the involvement of women in peace-building and reconciliation.

57. UNIFEM continues to support interclan dialogue among women in order to promote reconciliation and peace in the North-east and Lower Shabelle regions. Additionally, UNIFEM supported the participation of four Somali women at a policy seminar on mainstreaming gender in the peace-building and humanitarian policies and programmes of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. UNIFEM further supported the participation of two Somali women in the Horn of Africa Regional Conference on Women and Information Communication Technologies.

58. UNIFEM has worked closely with the UNDP Civil Protection Programme to mainstream gender in its activities. In January 2002, UNIFEM started the implementation of its project that will ensure appropriate State and public action to counter the exclusion of women from access to legal recourse. It will encourage law enforcement agencies to respond to violence and rights abuses to which women and girls are subjected.

F. Repatriation and reintegration

59. As part of the overall peace-building and reconciliation efforts, UNHCR continued in 2001 and 2002 actively to promote voluntary repatriation and initial reintegration of Somali refugees to northern Somalia, where security conditions were stable.

60. A total of 36,000 Somali refugees have been assisted to return in the reporting period, mainly from eastern Ethiopia. A total of 51,333 refugees were repatriated in 2001 from various parts of the world. By the end of 2001, UNHCR met the objective of closing three camps in eastern Ethiopia.

61. UNHCR implements community-based projects in areas of return, aiming at self-reliance and the extension of basic services to enhance the capacity of local authorities and communities to receive returnees. There are 118 ongoing reintegration projects in partnership with agencies such as UNDP, UNICEF, FAO, partner NGOs, local authorities and beneficiaries.

62. Under the leadership of the United Nations Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, the United Nations agencies and NGOs have reaffirmed and strengthened their commitment to work together to address the short-term and longer-term needs of reintegrating populations and their communities.

63. UNHCR constructed and/or rehabilitated 41 schools in the reporting period, providing access to a total of 60,000 children since 1991. More than 300,000 women and children have benefited from access to maternal and child health care following the construction or rehabilitation of a total of 55 health centres and related facilities, 10 of which were constructed or rehabilitated in the reporting period. Forty-six water facilities have been completed with five still ongoing during the reporting period.

64. Additionally, FAO and the International Labour Organization are providing consultants to the UNDP and UNHCR reintegration programme to undertake an assessment of the agriculture and livestock needs of returnees in the districts of Hargeisa and Burao. Proposals will be developed in line with the inter-agency development plan.

65. In 2001, the administration in Somaliland under the supervisory assistance of UNHCR provided international protection to a total of 589 urban refugees, of which 205 received a monthly subsistence

allowance. UNHCR further pursued resettlement to third countries as the major durable solution for refugees who had no prospect of voluntary repatriation or self-sufficiency through local integration. Eighty-eight refugees have already been resettled in the reporting period, while another 14 persons have been accepted for resettlement.

66. UNHCR strengthened its returnee monitoring system in 2002. Its main aim is to ensure effective re-establishment of national protection and improve external information-sharing on the realization of the legal, physical and material rights of returnees so that agencies can take appropriate action to foster sustainable reintegration.

G. Development programmes

67. UNDP has completed the formulation of the new phase of the Somali Civil Protection Programme, with the objective of strengthening strategic coordination and Somali ownership of project activities, as well as inter-agency collaboration within the framework of a development strategy for peace-building. The key features of this programme include increased mobilization of community efforts to participate in the reconstruction of law enforcement and judicial services, with a strong focus on human rights and women's participation in the re-establishment of the rule of law.

68. The programme will continue to provide support to Somalia's efforts in the field of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration as well as the re-establishment of the rule of law and mine action.

69. The UNDP Small Arms Control Project has completed its initial preparatory assistance phase, having established a research framework and a multi-year project in support of United Nations efforts to enforce the arms embargo and address issues of small arms proliferation and the threat small arms pose to Somali communities and the peace-building process. In this regard, Security Council resolution 1407 (2002) of 3 May 2002 established a team of experts to investigate violations of the arms embargo and make recommendations for further action by the international community.

70. The commencement of the ILO labour-based rehabilitation pilot project in support of broad demobilization activities in Somalia signals the renewed efforts of the international community to address economic recovery and social reintegration of the militia.

71. UNICEF has commenced an expanded child protection programme for Somalia in close cooperation with UNDP and other agencies, addressing formal and non-formal juvenile justice and law enforcement mechanisms, capacity-building of police officers in relation to child protection, prevention of juvenile delinquency and training of youth, and small arms and demobilization in relation to child soldiers.

72. UNICEF works with a local NGO to support the demobilization and reintegration of former child soldiers in Mogadishu. The project, which started in the third quarter of 2001, envisages the reintegration of about 120 youth formerly recruited and active with the local militia. UNICEF is facilitating the demobilization of former child soldiers in Mogadishu.

73. UNICEF is initiating a study to review the protection needs of children in Somalia and to prioritize future interventions. As part of this process, UNICEF and UNHCR are collaborating with Save the Children UK and USA to conduct a more detailed situation analysis of north-western Somalia.

74. The UNDP-initiated Psycho-social Counselling Project will be launched with support from the United Nations Country Team and specialized agencies. This multi-agency intervention aims to address the widespread problem of psychosocial trauma and mental illness in conflict-affected Somali communities. Pilot activities will commence in July in north-west Somalia.

75. In terms of socio-economic recovery, UNDP is now focusing on the reduction of human poverty in Somalia through support to private-sector growth and development and reintegration of returned refugees, internally displaced persons and demobilized militia. UNHCR continues to be active in Somaliland through its programmes to foster the economic self-sufficiency of women.

76. UNDP supports macroeconomic planning and management in Somalia to address constraints to private-sector growth and development. UNDP support to promote and develop the private sector also includes strengthening the legal and regulatory system for financial services and introducing commercial banking to promote commerce and trade.

77. UNDP, in consultation with other agencies and partners, is planning to prepare an Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper for Somalia. The document will provide an analysis of poverty in the country and indicate guidelines for national authorities and the international community.

78. UNDP is currently working with Somali remittance companies and other partners to look into feasible options of regulatory systems. Specifically, UNDP has encouraged dialogue between government authorities, Somali companies and international banking institutions to foster better understanding of the Somali remittance market and operations. UNDP aims to create an enabling environment for companies to comply with international financial rules and regulations by employing transparent systems and procedures.

79. With regard to infrastructure, the Civil Aviation Caretaker Authority for Somalia project of the International Civil Aviation Organization operates a Flight Information Centre in Nairobi, where it provides flight information service to en route air traffic. Aerodrome flight information service and rescue firefighting services are provided at Berbera, Bossaso and Hargeisa airports. The project provides steady employment for 97 Somalis deployed at the Flight Information Centre and at the three airports. A new Hargeisa passenger terminal building has been completed.

H. Coordination and security

80. The United Nations Coordination Unit, comprising the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)-Somalia and UNDP staff, continues to play its mandated roles in support of coordination of humanitarian assistance activities and negotiation of humanitarian access throughout Somalia. In doing so, the Unit works in close collaboration with the Somalia Aid Coordination Body (SACB). The Humanitarian Response Group of SACB, a rapid response mechanism for emergency humanitarian situations, is chaired by the head of OCHA-Somalia on behalf of the Humanitarian Coordinator. The Group is currently coordinating efforts to respond to the crisis in Gedo, including the negotiation of access to the vulnerable communities and the delivery of relief assistance.

81. Important inter-agency assessments coordinated by the Unit during the reporting period included security and humanitarian assessments of Gedo in June 2001, of Bakool and central Gedo in September 2001 and of Bulla Hawa and its surroundings, as well as of the Bari region in December 2001.

82. The Unit continues to promote the wider application of humanitarian principles and ground rules and to structure relations with local authorities in Somalia on the basis of such principles and rules.

83. OCHA-Somalia is also continuing its activities to ensure a coordinated response to the special needs of internally displaced persons throughout Somalia. Most have little hope of returning to their home areas in the immediate future and have clustered in settlements in safer locations and urban centres. United Nations agencies and NGOs are undertaking limited activities to support them. More remains to be done, particularly in terms of the provision of water, sanitation, health education and protection. OCHA-Somalia is working with United Nations agencies, NGOs and local authorities in a concerted effort to complete a survey of the situation of internally displaced persons in order to facilitate the design of strategies and projects for both immediate and longer-term interventions.

84. The United Nations security system supported the humanitarian assistance community, including United Nations agencies, throughout the reporting period. To this end, the security team updated the Somali security handbook and has upgraded communication and security equipment to meet the minimum operating security standard in the four offices in Somalia. With the support of seven security officers in the various zones, the United Nations security team continues to monitor the security situation closely with a view to improving its response capacity and providing maximum protection for humanitarian staff. Continued donor support for security operations remains key for the continued successful identification of peaceful areas and the facilitation of safe access for United Nations staff.

I. Assistance provided by Member States

85. The implementation by the United Nations of humanitarian and development programmes in Somalia is made possible through donor contributions. The 2002 United Nations Inter-Agency Consolidated

Appeal for Somalia requests a total of US$ 83 million. To date, a total of $23 million has been contributed; this is equivalent to 28 per cent of the total requirements for 2002. In 2001, $29 million out of a total requested amount of $140 million was received through the Inter-Agency Consolidated Appeal.

86. For the programmes that rely solely on Consolidated Appeals Process funding, implementation has consequently been limited. Some of the affected programmes include key intersectoral activities focusing on human rights and gender. Agencies have utilized core funds or funds borrowed from other projects to address urgent needs particularly in the health sector. In the Somali context, lack of funding, or disproportionate funding, has cumulative adverse effects on the lives of many vulnerable civilians and the achievement of overall objectives and strategies.

87. As most activities are mutually reinforcing, funding requirements should be met as soon as possible and contributions should be evenly distributed across all key sectors to maximize impact and ensure complementarity.

IV. Conclusions

88. Poverty is still widespread and, sadly, Somalia remains one of the poorest countries in the world, with an estimated 700,000 vulnerable people living close to, or below, subsistence level. These vulnerable Somalis are prevented from rebuilding their livelihoods in a sustained manner, as insecurity too often disrupts progress and obstructs many of the programmes intended to assist them.

89. The security situation in many parts of Somalia remains volatile, affecting United Nations operations negatively. Although the United Nations is able to maintain a strong presence of international and national staff in the north-west, due to the relatively stable security environment, access to the north-east, central and southern areas remains restricted. Given that security-related programme disruptions directly cause greater suffering among the Somali people, Somali leaders in all parts of the country are called upon to ensure the safety of United Nations and NGO staff working in the areas under their control and to facilitate the provision of assistance to those most in need.

90. In spite of these obstacles, the United Nations, in collaboration with implementing partners, continues to deliver humanitarian and development assistance in many areas of Somalia. With more than 900 projects, the United Nations remains strongly committed to assist Somalia. Unfortunately, the low donor response to the consolidated appeals in 2001 and 2002 prevents United Nations agencies from fully addressing the emergency needs in Somalia. Member States are therefore urged to support humanitarian, recovery, and development activities in Somalia actively through the Consolidated Appeals Process and other mechanisms.

91. One of the main objectives of United Nations programmes in Somalia is to contribute to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and ensure the active participation of women in development and decision-making processes. Efforts are being made to eliminate harmful cultural practices and ultimately allow women in Somalia to enjoy their human rights fully. It is imperative that sustained, programmatic support be accorded to this endeavour.

92. The United Nations, with the support of the international community, will continue to work in support of national reconciliation and social and economic development in Somalia, employing an incremental approach of increased engagement. This approach is ultimately the most useful tool for providing humanitarian and development support. While continuing to provide assistance in secure areas, the United Nations will also undertake peace-building activities aimed at strengthening communities and encouraging reconciliation between rival factions. Member States are urged to contribute to the Trust Fund for Peace-Building in Somalia in support of these longer-term efforts.

93. Finally, as the humanitarian emergency in Somalia persists, as a result of various factors, including continuing inter-factional fighting, poverty and basic food insecurity, it is recommended that further reports on humanitarian activities and economic and social rehabilitation efforts in Somalia continue to be submitted to the General Assembly on a yearly basis.